

Application No. 10/070,401

Title: GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE AND METHOD RELATED THERETO
Amendment responsive to Office Action dated: December 17, 2004

Remarks

Applicant's attorney acknowledges and appreciates the reconsideration of the examiner concerning the restriction of the claims in this application. Claims 1 and 15 have been amended, and claims 5 and 17 have been cancelled.

After consideration of the cited reference to 5,897,619 to Hargrove, Jr., either alone or in combination with U.S. Patent No. 5,704,311 to van den Berg. Initially, the invention hereof is drawn to the environment of a dairy farm system and to particular aspect peculiar to a dairy farm system which are represented in the graphical user interface of the present invention -- a milking machine or a part thereof, or a cow or a part thereof.

Yahoo's on-line encyclopedia defines a dairy farm as "a farm for producing milk and milk products." Similarly, as Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary defines a dairy farm as "a farm devoted chiefly to the production of milk and the manufacture of butter and cheese." Thus, it can be readily concluded that the farm environment disclosed by the Hargrove, Jr. patent could hardly be considered or defined as a dairy farm system or a part thereof. For example, a dairy farm has no obligation to include farm land for growing crops or food for the dairy animals.

In particular, because of the entirely different environment, Hargrove, Jr. fails to disclose, teach or suggest that the graphical user interface comprises a schematic representation of a milking machine or a part thereof, or of a cow, or a part thereof.

The teachings of Hargrove '619 are directed to a farm management system comprising a display unit for displaying a map of farm land. Such a map in this context is indeed a map -- a

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schematic representation of a piece of land, where the representation comprises field, each of which represents a respective part of the land and each having a spatial relationship to the other fields. Such a correspondence between a spatial location of a represented part of the land in relation to the other parts of the land is common to maps, whether electronic or printed.

Amended claims 1 and its corresponding method claim 15 of the present application, relates to a machine having different parts and to cows which move about the dairy farm. Here, the claims call for a computer screen typically presenting figures and objects and controls in a functional or hierarchical relationship. That is, in a relationship related to the degree of importance, or in some other relationship. Thus, the nature of the objects and their context within a dairy farm system demonstrate both the absence of anticipation as well as the fact that it cannot be obvious to provide a graphical user interface of the type set forth in claims 1 and 15 as amended.

The cited passage (claim 43) of Van den Berg '311 discloses " a display screen associated with said computer in the vicinity of the apparatus for visibly depicting said data files". This cannot be considered as disclosing, teaching or suggesting the claimed computer display with the graphical user interface of the present invention. The ability to visibly depict data files in no way could be read as teaching the ability or desire to track cows in and out of gates, and further the operation of such gates via a computer.

The display disclosed by Van den Berg '311 only performs the following: displaying the most relevant data concerning automatically milking said animals and the health conditions of the animals as reflected by its claim 30, displaying the number of animals determined by said counting

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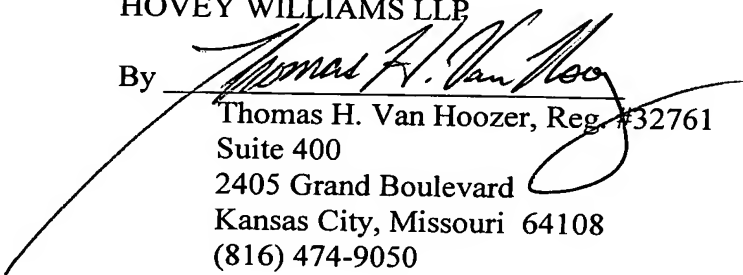
means to have entered said isolation area from said milking compartment (claim 40), depicting data files for the animals (claim 43), displaying an attention signal (col. 2, line 51), and displaying the correct number of animals (not graphical representations but numbers only) present in the isolation area (column 7, line 30). Thus, Van den Berg fails to disclose the present invention, such as the graphical representations called for in the claims, or the gates which are displayed on a display.

In view of the foregoing, applicant earnestly requests reconsideration of the rejection in view of the amendments to the claims presented herewith. Applicant submits that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance and such is courteously solicited. Should the examiner have any questions which may be resolved by a telephone conference, they may be addressed to the undersigned at 1-800-445-3460. Any additional fee necessitated by this amendment may be charged to deposit account 19-0522.

Respectfully submitted,

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